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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned )  
Examiner: To Be Assigned )  
Serial No.: 09/546,145 )  
Inventor(s): Richard D. Bednar )  
Filed: April 10, 2000 )  
For: Gang-Type Rotary Lawn Mower )  
Attorney Docket: 7016R-000015/COA )

INFORMATION  
DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT

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Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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7/18/00

By

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant(s) hereby submit(s) an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications or other information submitted for consideration by the Office (except U.S. patent applications) are listed on PTO-1449, attached hereto.

II. COPIES

a. \_\_\_\_\_ Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed, except that no copy of a U.S. patent application is included.

b. \_\_\_\_\_ Any patents, publications or other information which are listed on PTO-1449 or on the copies of PTO-892 but which are not enclosed herewith were previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in one of the following applications which has been relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120:

U.S. Serial Number

U.S. Filing Date

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE (check at least one box)

a. X Except as may be indicated below in (b), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language (concise explanation not required).

b. X A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows: See English language abstract attached to the references as necessary.

c. \_\_\_\_\_ The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

IV. CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

The Examiner is advised that the following co-pending application(s) contain(s) subject matter that may be related to the present application. By bringing this(these) applications to the Examiner's attention, Applicant(s) does(do) not waive the confidentiality provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122.

Serial No.

Filing Date

Art Unit

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b): (check one box)

a. \_\_\_\_\_ within three months of the filing date of a national application (37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or certification is required.

b. \_\_\_\_\_ within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(2)). No fee or certification is required.

c. X before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. 197(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e) below, or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$240.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p).

VI. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c): (check one box)

before the mailing date of a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. 1.113 (See 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(1)) or before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. 1.311 (See 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(2)).

a. \_\_\_\_\_ No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$240.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p).

b. \_\_\_\_\_ See the certification below. No fee is required.

VII. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e) (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that

a. \_\_\_\_\_ each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign or PCT Patent Office in a counterpart foreign or PCT application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or

b. \_\_\_\_\_ no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

c. \_\_\_\_\_ Some of the items of information were cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned certified that each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

VIII. PAYMENT OF FEES (check one box)

A check in the amount of \$240.00 is enclosed for the above-identified fee.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 08-0750 in the amount of \$240.00 for the above-indicated fee. A triplicate copy of this paper is attached.

It is Applicant's opinion that the claims presently on file patentably distinguish the present invention from each of these references. The above references are being cited only in the interests of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art or contain matter which anticipates the invention or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Respectfully submitted,  
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

Date: 7/19/00

By: David P. Utykanski  
David P. Utykanski  
Reg. No. 39,052

Enclosures: X PTO-1449  
   PTO-892  
X References  
   Foreign Search Report  
   Fee  
   Other:

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